

COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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January 14, 2000

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Docket Number 98-045N

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Docket Number 97N-0074

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Docket Number OPP-00550B; FRL-6087-7

RE: President's Council on Food Safety Strategic Plan
64 Federal Register 116, 32788-32790

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Colorado Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is sending this letter to register our support and submit comments regarding the national food safety strategic plan, currently being developed by the President's Council on Food Safety. CEHA is a non-profit association with approximately 250 environmental health professionals and students as members. Our professional members are working in local and state government as well as in industry. We are the home affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association, with whom we actively participate. The mission of CEHA is "to promote Environmental Health as a profession which strives for continual improvement in environmental health quality and the growth of individual professionalism."

CEHA believes that it is very important that the strategic plan include state and local involvement in this most important federal interagency effort. We believe that the strategic plan with such involvement will improve public perception of the environmental and public health professions, emphasizing our willingness to work together toward the common goal of food safety. Improved public perception may, in turn, create new jobs in the environmental and public health fields. CEHA also supports the strategic plan in its recognition of the need for continuous training for those in our

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field. We strongly agree with the need for Goal 1, which will "ensure the development and use of a comprehensive scientific and technological food safety knowledge base." Any food safety system, including this strategic plan, can be only as good as the knowledge of the individuals therein.

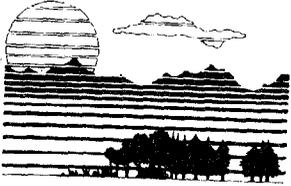
CEHA is pleased to support the development of a national food safety strategic plan, and looks forward to the outcome of this collaboration of federal, state and local officials.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (303) 692-3636 or erin.mathiason@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

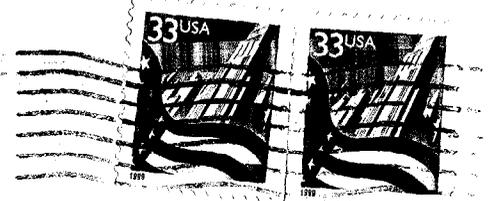


Erin Mathiason
CEHA President



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